

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A drainage system grate assembly for covering a watercourse of a drainage system, the drainage system assembly comprising:

a frame having at least two opposing sides set within ~~and surrounding~~ the watercourse;

a grate set within the frame and including -

at least one crossbar, each of which is operable to be secured to the frame, and

~~at least one~~ a plurality of tread [[bar]] bars supported by and positioned on top of the

at least one crossbar ~~for allowing a person or vehicle to traverse over the watercourse,~~

~~at least one crossbar spanning the frame and supporting the tread bars, and~~

~~a flange protruding substantially horizontally from at least one crossbar adjacent a lower-most surface of the at least one crossbar; and~~

[[a]] at least one locking element, each of which is structurally separate from the frame and grate and of a rigid construction, such that each locking element is operable to interface with the frame so as to secure each crossbar to the frame ~~secured to the flange and contacting the frame in order to secure the grate within the frame.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the frame includes ~~ledges for supporting the crossbars~~ a horizontal ledge protruding towards the opposing side of the frame.

3. (Currently Amended) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim [[1]] 2, wherein the frame includes a shelf extending downwardly ~~extending shelves for engaging the locking element~~ from each horizontal ledge.

4. (Currently Amended) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein each crossbar includes ~~at least one channel for supporting the tread bars therein~~ a plurality of upstanding members positioned adjacent each other along a length of the crossbar.

5-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim [[3]] 1, wherein the locking element [[is]] comprises a flat bar attached to the grate adjacent a center of the grate for spanning the watercourse and the frame below the shelves of the frame having a length approximately at least the same as a length of the at least one crossbar.

12-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Withdrawn) A drainage system grate assembly for covering a watercourse of a drainage system, the drainage system assembly comprising:

a frame adapted to be set within a perimeter of the watercourse and including -

at least two upwardly oriented ledges, and

a downwardly oriented shelf positioned below each of the ledges;

a grate adapted to be seated within the frame, upon the ledges, and including -

a plurality of tread bars for allowing a person or vehicle to traverse over the watercourse,

at least one crossbar spanning the frame with each crossbar having at least one slanted side, channels for supporting the tread bars therein, and a slot along its length of sufficient depth so as to meet each channel and allow the tread bars to be secured to the crossbar by welding a bead along the slot,

a substantially horizontal flange protruding from at least one crossbar and having a substantially vertical hole; and

a locking element operable to selectively engage the shelf in order to secure the grate within the frame.

22. (Withdrawn) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 21, wherein the locking element includes a substantially horizontal member and at least one substantially vertical member.

23. (Withdrawn) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 21, wherein the locking element is a flat bar oriented along a substantially horizontal plane for spanning the frame.

24. (Withdrawn) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 21, wherein the locking element includes a nut retainer.

25. (Withdrawn) A drainage system grate assembly for covering a watercourse of a drainage system, the drainage system assembly comprising:

a frame adapted to be set within a perimeter of the watercourse and including -

at least two upwardly oriented ledges, and

a downwardly oriented shelf positioned below each of the ledges;

a grate formed separately from but operable to be seated within the frame, upon the ledges, and including -

a plurality of tread bars for allowing a person or vehicle to traverse over the watercourse,

at least one crossbar spanning the frame with each crossbar having at least one slanted side, channels for supporting the tread bars therein, and a slot along its length of sufficient depth so as to meet each channel and allow the tread bars to be secured to the crossbar by welding a bead along the slot,

a substantially horizontal flange protruding from at least one crossbar and having a substantially vertical hole; and

a locking element formed separately from but operable to selectively secure the grate within the frame by engaging the shelf as a result of turning a bolt penetrating the hole, the locking element including -

a substantially horizontal member for receiving the bolt,

at least one substantially vertical member for engaging the shelf, and

a nut retainer for holding a nut into which the bolt is threaded.

27. (Withdrawn) A drainage system grate assembly for covering a watercourse of a drainage system, the drainage system grate assembly comprising:

- a frame set within and spanning at least two opposing edges of the watercourse and including-

- at least one upwardly facing ledge offset below an upper-most surface of the frame,
 - and

- a least one downwardly extending shelf below the ledge and along the watercourse;

- a grate set within and supported by the frame, such that an upper-most surface of the grate does not extend substantially above the upper-most surface of the frame and including -

- at least one tread bar for allowing a person or vehicle to traverse over the watercourse,

- at least one crossbar spanning the frame, seated below the upper-most surface of the frame, resting atop and supported by the ledge, and supporting the tread bars,
 - and

- a flange protruding substantially horizontally adjacent a lower-most surface of at least one crossbar; and

- a locking element secured to the flange and engaging the frame in order to secure the grate within the frame.

28. (Withdrawn) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 27, wherein the flange includes a hole operable to receive a bolt, such that as the bolt is rotated the locking element is drawn upwardly reducing a distance between the grate and the locking element until the frame is squeezed between the grate and the locking element thereby rigidly holding the grate within the frame.

29. (Withdrawn) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 28, wherein the locking element includes a substantially horizontal member through which the bolt penetrates and at least one substantially vertical member which engages the frame by sliding upwardly and behind the shelf.

30. (Withdrawn) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 29, wherein the locking element includes a nut retainer located below the horizontal member for holding a nut and preventing rotation thereof during installation of the drainage system grate assembly.

31. (Withdrawn) A drainage system grate assembly for covering a watercourse of a drainage system, the drainage system grate assembly comprising:

- a frame set within and spanning at least two opposing edges of the watercourse and including-

- at least one upwardly facing ledge offset below an upper-most surface of the frame,
 - and

- a least one downwardly projecting shelf extending away from and below the ledge along the watercourse;

- a grate set within and supported by the frame, such that an upper-most surface of the grate does not extend substantially above the upper-most surface of the frame and including -

- at least one tread bar for allowing a person or vehicle to traverse over the watercourse,

- at least one crossbar spanning the frame, seated below the upper-most surface of the frame, resting atop and supported by the ledge, and supporting the tread bars,
 - and

- a flange protruding substantially horizontally adjacent a lower-most surface of at least one crossbar and including a hole through which a bolt penetrates in order to secure the grate to the frame; and

- a locking element secured to the flange by the bolt and including -

a substantially horizontal member through which the bolt penetrates, and
at least one substantially vertical member which engages the frame by sliding
upwardly and behind the shelf as the bolt is rotated, such that the locking
element is drawn upwardly reducing a distance between the grate and the
locking element until the frame is squeezed between the grate and the locking
element thereby rigidly holding the grate within the frame, and
a nut retainer located below the horizontal member.

32. (Withdrawn) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 31, wherein the locking element is isolated from the grate by the frame such that the locking element does not contact the grate.

33. (New) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 4, wherein each tread bar is positioned between adjacent upstanding members.

34. (New) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 33, wherein each upstanding member of each crossbar includes a flange protruding horizontally from the upstanding member.

35. (New) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 3, the locking element including an upturned, vertical member adapted to interface with and contact the downwardly extending shelf of the frame so as to secure the crossbar to the frame.

36. (New) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the frame includes no more than three sides sets within the watercourse.

37. (New) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the grate is a first grate and the drainage system grate assembly further comprises a second grate positioned adjacent the first grate.

38. (New) The drainage system grate assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein in a first orientation, a length of the at least one crossbar is generally perpendicular to the opposing sides of the frame, and in a second orientation, the length of the at least one crossbar is generally parallel to the opposing sides of the frame.